

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to provide these Food Stamp Program (FSP) informational materials for use in your outreach efforts.

The FSP is the cornerstone of Federal food assistance programs. Each year, more than 17 million people receive food stamp benefits. In fiscal year 2001, these people received an average benefit of \$163 per month. Using electronic benefit cards or food coupons, food stamp recipients can purchase healthy, nutritious food for themselves and their families. The FSP also benefits communities. Every \$5 in food stamp benefits generates about \$9 of new community spending. Unfortunately, there are still millions of people eligible for food stamp benefits who are not yet participating in the program.

These materials are one way that FNS facilitates community efforts to reach out to people who may be eligible but are not yet participating. By teaching people about the nutrition benefits of food stamps, we can dispel common myths and enable people to make informed decisions about whether or not to apply. We also can start helping all people understand that the FSP is for good health and good nutrition. The materials feature the faces of America and are suitable for a variety of audiences including low-income people, the working poor, the elderly, immigrants, veterans, and the disabled. Please use these free materials to help your communities, your constituents, and your neighbors learn more about the FSP. Follow up by talking to people who receive this information, and if they want to apply, by helping them to find their local food stamp office or navigate the application process.

Bulk copies of any of the materials can be ordered for free online at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/order-form.htm>. If you want to customize the materials and have them commercially printed, CD-ROM versions are also available by contacting Dawn Addison at dawn.addison@fns.usda.gov. If you make changes other than adding your logo or identifier, please remove the USDA logo. Finally, the materials can also be downloaded and duplicated. To do this, go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/info.htm>.

For more information about FSP outreach, please contact Laura Griffin at 703-605-4399 or by email at laura.griffin@fns.usda.gov.

Thank you for your interest in the FSP. Together, we can make a healthy difference in the lives of many people in need.

Food Stamps Make America Stronger.

